

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WILDLIFE & FRESHWATER FISH MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, October 29, 2019

Richardson & Robbins Building Auditorium

89 Kings Highway, Dover, Delaware

Phone 302-739-9912, FAX 302-739-6157

ADVISORY COUNCIL

1. Edward A. Montague, Chair
2. Garrett Grier, Jr., Vice Chair
3. Raymond F. Burris
4. Neal Dukes
5. Nathan Hudson
6. Joe C. Johnson (Absent)
7. Steven Kendus
8. Dale R. Scuse
9. F. Thomas Unruh

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

1. Rob Hossler
2. David Saveikis
3. Joe Rogerson
4. Eric Ness
5. Dana Patone
6. Kayla Harvey
7. Karen McNamara
8. Jeff Hague
9. Lieutenant Carl Winckoski

PUBLIC

7 Visitors

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Montague at 7:00 pm.

Agenda Item 1. Approval of Minutes (Chairman).

A motion was made by Councilman Burris, seconded by Councilman Unruh and the Council voted unanimously to approve the September 24, 2019 meeting minutes as written.

Agenda Item 2. New ePermitting Licensing System Preview (Karen McNamara).

Karen McNamara, DTI, and Vanguard, the Department's licensing and permitting vendor, provided a preview of the new ePermitting system and associated recreational fishing license sales portal under development for a planned launch in early 2020. The preview demonstrated how to create a DNREC account and purchase fishing licenses and trout stamps. The new system will be fully compatible with a wider variety of electronic devices than the current license sales system, including Apple products. A new, similar recreational hunting license sales portal is also under development, with an anticipated launch in 2020 that is planned to interface with hunter education records and provide hunter and trapper registration functions, all under one system.

Agenda Item 3. Straight-Wall Pistol-Caliber Rifles (Delaware State Sportsmen's Association).

Jeff Hague from the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association presented the Association's objection to the Department's restrictions regarding straight-wall pistol-caliber rifles for deer hunting.

Mr. Hague stated that the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association believes that the current restriction on the use of semi-automatic rifles is inconsistent with Delaware state law. The Association also feels that the requirement that only rifles able to chamber and fire the allowable pistol-caliber ammunition for which a commercially-produced pistol(s) is available is also inconsistent with Delaware state law.

Mr. Hague stated that the Association may take action on the matter. The Council did not take a position or make a recommendation on the matter.

Agenda Item 4. Director's Update (David Saveikis).

Director Saveikis informed the Council that the Division is currently considering legislation for possible introduction in the upcoming General Assembly session that begins in January, and that he would advise the Council of any such legislation. He also provided an update on the status of the wildlife and hunting regulation package planned for adoption by the 2020/2021 hunting season.

AGENDA FOR THE 11/26/2019 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Council asked the Division of Fish & Wildlife to provide the agenda for the next meeting, with the Division subsequently developing the following agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes from October 29, 2019 Council Meeting (Chairman).

2. Protocol for Documenting Motions in Meeting Minutes (David E. Saveikis).
3. 2019 Deer Harvest Update (Joe Rogerson).
4. Piping Plovers in Delaware -- State Population Increase and Regional Implications (Henrietta Bellman).
5. Director's Update (David E. Saveikis).

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Unruh, seconded by Councilman Kendus and unanimously approved by the Council to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 pm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dana Patone".

Dana Patone
Recording Secretary